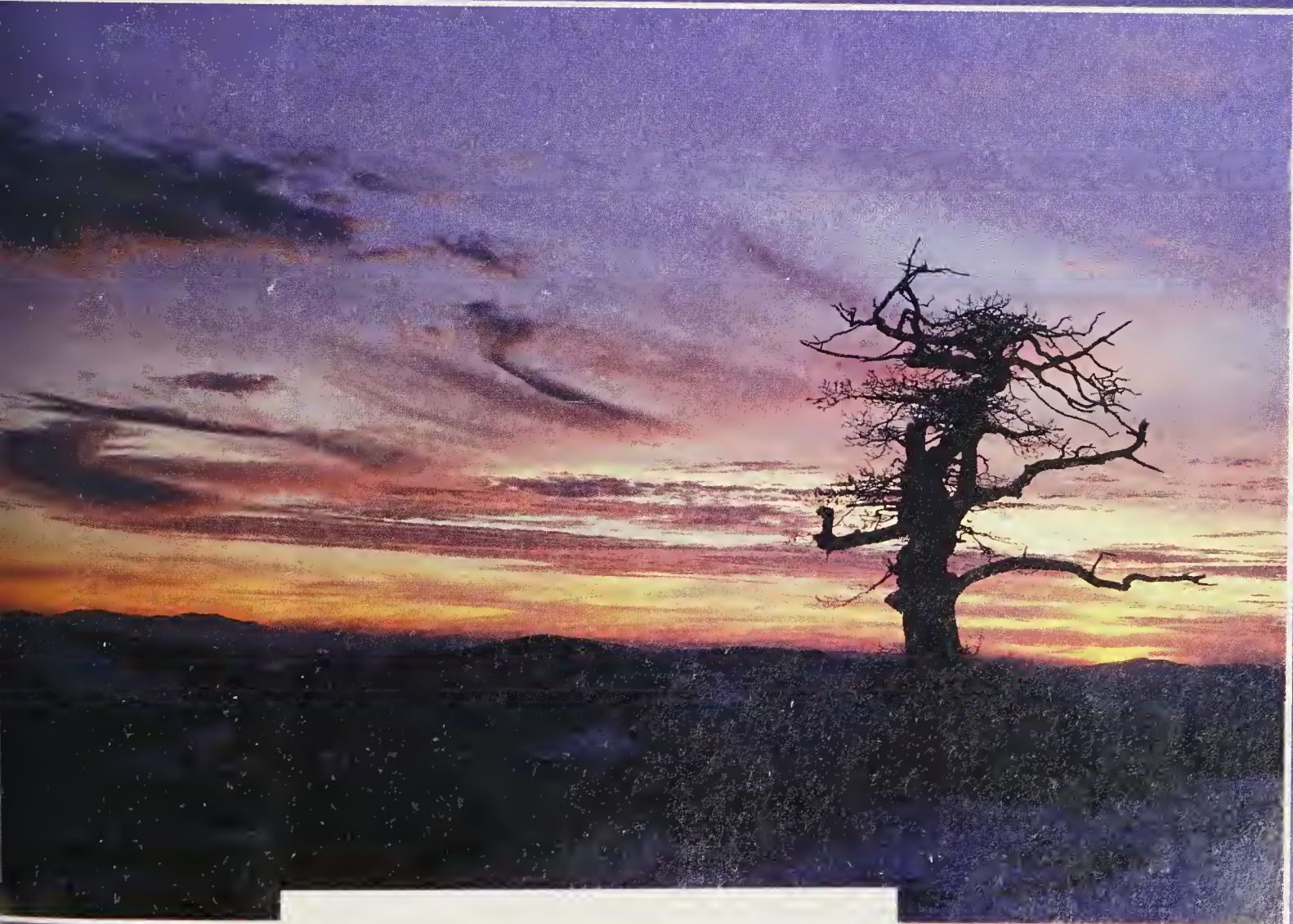


# Carolina Country<sup>®</sup>

March 1984

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FCX Marks 50 Years  
Of Self-Help Success  
See Pages 10-11



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# Lady Plugs In Zoysia Grass Saves Time, Work & Money

## FREE! UP TO 1000 PLUGS!

By Jack T. Johnson  
Agronomist

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- **AMAZOY WON'T WINTER KILL** —has survived temperatures 30° below zero!
- **AMAZOY WON'T HEAT KILL**—when other grasses burn out, Amazoy remains green and lovely!

Every plug must grow within 45 days or we replace it free. Since we're hardly in business for the fun of it, you know we have to be sure of our product.

### PLUG AMAZOY INTO OLD LAWN, NEW GROUND OR NURSERY AREA

Just set Amazoy plugs into holes ground like a cork in a bottle. Plant 1 foot apart, checkerboard style.

When planted in existing lawn area, plugs will spread to drive out old, unwanted growth, including weeds. Easy planting instructions with order.

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There's no seed that produces winter hardy Meyer Z-52 Zoysia. Grass and sod or ordinary grass carries with it the same problems as seed — like weeds, diseases, frequent mowing, burning off, etc. That's why Amazoy comes in pre-cultured plugs...your assurance of lawn success.

## FREE! UP TO 1000 PLUGS!

### Just for Ordering Now!

More than a HALF BILLION of our Zoysia plugs have been sold. Our Early Bird Bonus Plug Offer means clear savings to you. Order now — don't take another chance with lawn disappointment. And remember: If it isn't AMAZOY, you're not getting the plugs that made Zoysia famous.



In comparison, I'm always happy to get letters from people who have plugged in my Amazoy Zoysia Grass, because they write to tell me how beautiful their lawns are even in midsummer heat and drought.

### "MOWED IT 2 TIMES," WRITES WOMAN

For example, Mrs. M. R. Mitter writes me how her lawn "...is the envy of all who see it. When everybody's lawns around here are brown from drought ours just stays as green as ever. I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in... Last summer, we had it mowed (2) times. Another thing, we never have to pull any weeds — it's just wonderful!"

Wonderful? Yes, Amazoy Zoysia Grass IS wonderful! Plant it now and like Mrs. Mitter you'll cut mowing by 2/3...never have another weed problem all summer long the rest of your life!

And from Iowa came word that the State's largest Men's Garden Club picked a Zoysia lawn as the "top lawn — nearly perfect" in its area. Yet this lawn had been watered only once all summer up to August!

### PERFECT FOR SLOPES

If slopes are a problem, plug in Amazoy and let it stop erosion. Or plug it into hard-to-cover spots, playworn areas, etc.

Your deep-rooted, established Amazoy lawn saves you time and money in many ways. It never needs replacement... ends re-seeding forever. Fertilizing and watering (water costs money, too) are rarely if ever needed. It ends the need for crabgrass killers permanently. It cuts pushing a noisy mower in the blistering sun by 2/3.

### WEAR RESISTANT

When America's largest University tested 13 leading grasses for wear resistance, such as foot scuffing, the Zoysia (matrella and japonica Meyer Z-52) led all others.

Your Amazoy lawn takes such wear as cookouts, lawn parties, lawn furniture, etc. Grows so thick you could play football on it and not get your feet muddy. Even if children play on it, they won't hurt it — or themselves.

### CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS

Thick, rich, luxurious, established Amazoy grows into a carpet of grass that chokes out crabgrass and weeds all summer long. It will NOT winter kill. Goes off its green color after killing frosts. Begins regaining its green color at the time when the temperature in the spring is consistently warm. This, of course, varies with climate.

### NO NEED TO RIP OUT PRESENT GRASS

Now's the time to order your Amazoy Zoysia plugs — to get started on a lawn that will choke out crabgrass and weeds all summer long and year after year.

Plug it into an entire lawn or limited "problem areas." Plug it into poor soil, "builder's soil," clay or sandy soils — even salty, beach areas, and I guarantee it to grow!

### Your Own Supply of Plug Transplants

Your established Amazoy lawn provides you with Amazoy Zoysia plugs for other areas as you may desire.

## WORK LESS • WORRY LESS • SPEND LESS

- Easy To Plant, Easy To Care For
- Perfect For Problem Areas
- Chokes Out Crabgrass
- Reduces Mowing 2/3
- Stays Green Through Droughts
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- Laughs At Water Bans

### Your Established Amazoy Lawn...

### No Need to Rip Out Present Grass • Plug in Amazoy!

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Card # \_\_\_\_\_



## It's Just A Matter Of Money

It's just a matter of money.

Whether you call it filthy lucre or legal tender, it is basically at the heart of current policy battles involving the nation's rural electric cooperatives and the present administration in Washington.

That fact may be difficult for the average co-op consumer to sort out of the confusing issues that are being raised on the various fronts of this struggle. But, once they're stripped to their barest essentials, they all revolve around the dollar sign.

Here's an outline of the primary issues:

- Construction-Work-In-Progress (CWIP).

Since last July, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has permitted investor-owned power companies to charge their wholesale customers—including co-ops—for part of the costs related to new plants that are still under construction. Previously, such costs could be passed on to the customers only after the plants had become operational.

Recent rate increase proposals from Virginia Electric and Power Co. and Carolina Power and Light Co. reflected this new policy, adding several million dollars to the rates that would be charged to the North Carolina co-ops they serve.

The CWIP issue, according to Rep. Richard Ottinger (D-NY), a co-sponsor of legislation to reverse the FERC policy, is a question of "whether the financing of new power plants should be borne by shareholders of a utility or the consumers. It is the shareholders who make the profits; it is the shareholders who should bear the risks."

It's just a matter of money.

For a report on the status of the CWIP legislation, see Page 28.

- Revamping the Rural Electrification Administration's Revolving Fund.

This legislation addresses a complex mechanism through which the co-ops obtain federally-insured financing for expansion. Simply stated, its purpose is to make sure the mechanism remains stable in order to hold down the co-ops' financing costs in the years ahead.

It's just a matter of money.

For details on the revamping plan, see Pages 32-33.

- The Administration's 1985 Budget Proposals.

If adopted without change, the budget's provisions affecting interest rates and other co-op operating costs would deal a "death blow to the rural electrification program as an essential instrument for achieving economic growth and social benefits in rural America," says Robert Partridge, executive vice president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The budget proposals, Partridge pointed out, would ultimately force electric co-ops to raise their rates, "sharply penalizing" their consumer-members.

It's just a matter of money.

\*\*\*\*

The Senate has not yet acted on the CWIP bill (S.1069) and both houses of Congress will be considering the Revolving Fund legislation and the budget proposals.

If you're concerned about these issues—all of which would ultimately bring higher electric rates for co-op consumers—let your representatives in Congress know how you feel.

It's just a matter of *your* money.

### Want To Have Your Say?

If you're interested in writing to members of the Tar Heel congressional delegation about the issues reviewed in this editorial—or others—you'll find their full addresses on page 4.



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# Wake EMC Names Mangum Manager

A Wake County native has been named general manager of Wake Electric Membership Corporation, Wake Forest.



James E. Mangum Jr., who has been an engineer with the cooperative since 1971, took the EMC's top management post effective March 1.

He succeeds Earl F. Shoaf, who resigned after four years with the co-op to enter private business.

Mangum is a 1971 graduate of North Carolina State University with a B.S. in electrical engineering operations. As a student at NCSU he was employed by Independent Data Processing Inc.

After receiving his degree, he served as an electrical engineer with Martin-Marietta, Inc., before joining Wake EMC in 1971 as assistant engineer. He was promoted to staff engineer in 1978.

The new manager is married to the former Mary Ella Dodd of Wake Forest. They have two children.

## Where To Write Tar Heel Congressional Delegation

### House of Representatives

#### 1st District

Walter B. Jones  
241 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

#### 2nd District

I. T. Valentine  
1107 Longworth Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

#### 3rd District

Charles Whitley  
104 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

#### 4th District

Ike F. Andrews  
2201 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

#### 5th District

Stephen L. Neal  
2463 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

#### 6th District

C. Robin Britt  
327 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

#### 7th District

Charles G. Rose, III  
2230 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

#### 8th District

William G. Hefner  
2161 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

#### 9th District

James G. Martin  
2186 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

#### 10th District

James T. Broyhill  
2340 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

#### 11th District

James McClure Clarke  
415 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

### Senate

Jesse Helms  
SD-402 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

John East  
SH-716 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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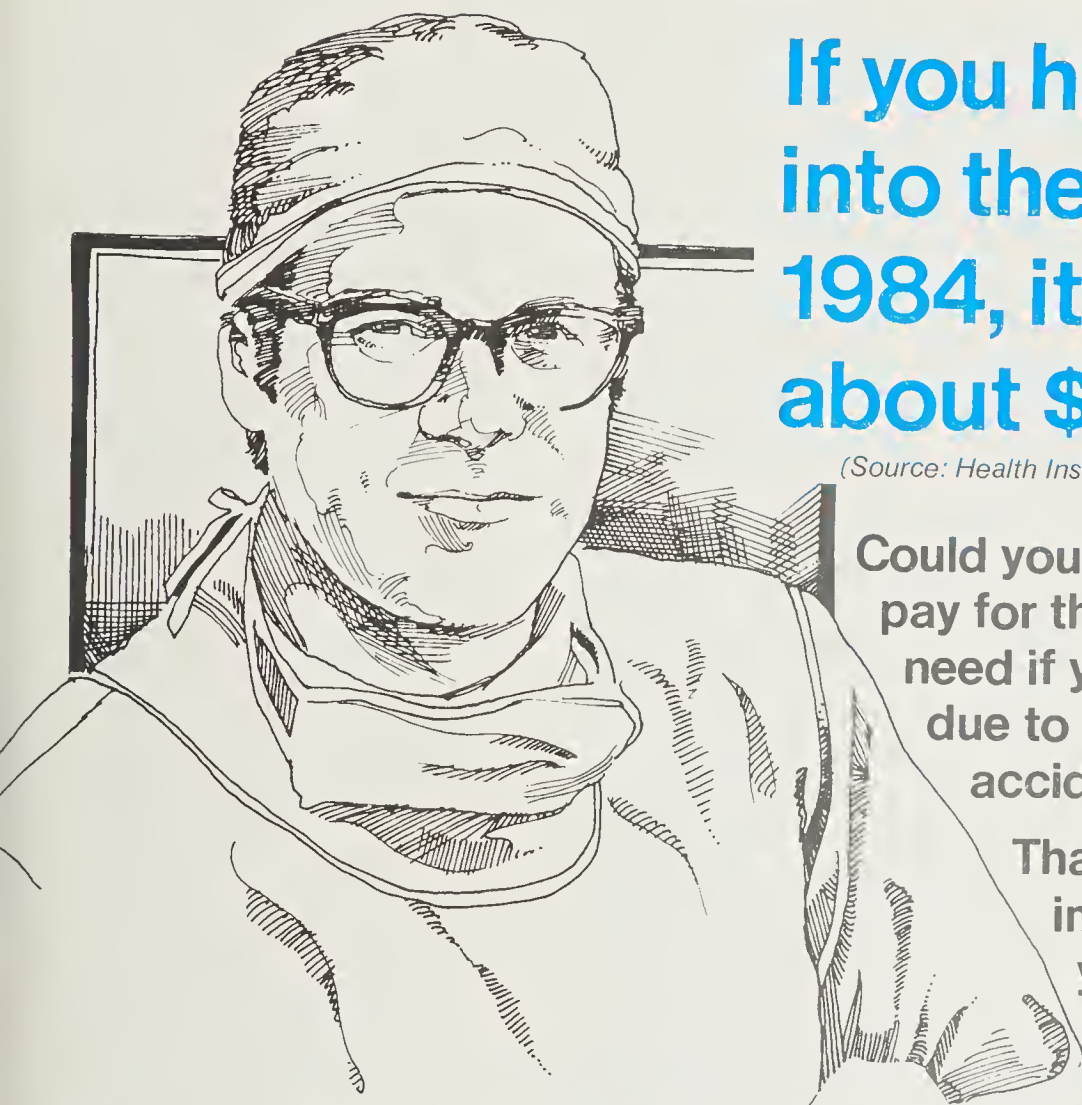
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## Estimate Cut On State's Peat Resources

North Carolina has only about one-fourth as much fuel grade peat as an earlier estimate suggested, according to a scientist who recently completed a five-year inventory of peat deposits in the Coastal Plain.

The state has roughly 1,100 square miles of land that would yield 530 million tons of peat after harvesting and drying, said Dr. Roy L. Ingram, professor of geology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Estimates made by soil scientists in 1967 were that the coastal swamps, river flood plains and Carolina bays held the equivalent of two billion tons of dry peat that could be used as fuel.

Of the amount found, however, only 10-25 percent of the gummy, black, organic material could be mined economically under current market conditions, Ingram said. That amount would supply eastern North Carolina's electrical energy needs for no more than six years and possibly as little as 30 months.

Ingram conducted his study, which began in 1979, with grants totaling \$450,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy and the N.C. Energy Institute. Field work included taking some 10,000 peat samples that were later analyzed in the laboratory for impurities and heating value.

Much of the state's peat is high quality and, when dry, has a heating value roughly two-thirds that of coal, the UNC-CH study showed. Deposits in North Carolina average 4.5 feet thick, but can be as thick as 16 feet.

After steps have been taken to protect the environment, the alternative fuel should be mined, the geologist said. It is still a substantial resource.

"People don't realize that if we don't use this resource, it's going to disappear anyway," Ingram said. "Once the land surrounding peat deposits has been drained and ditched for farming, peat nearby begins to decompose at a rate of about one inch per year.

"It is a process that began in some areas three centuries ago."



## A TARHEEL BARGAIN

All over North Carolina thrifty EMC consumers are signing up for load management.

With special energy-saving switches on their central air conditioners and water heaters, they're helping EMCs shave peak electric demands statewide. And this, in the long run, will help hold down future rate increases.

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## Loan Approved For Cape Hatteras EMC

The Rural Electrification Administration has awarded a \$1.7 million loan to Cape Hatteras Electric Membership Corporation, Buxton, for an expansion project.

The project will extend nine miles of distribution line to serve 320 potential customers. In addition, another 24 miles of line will be upgraded to higher capacity, and improvements will be made at five substations.

Cape Hatteras EMC currently serves about 3,200 consumer-members in Dare County.

## Folk Art Center Shows Handcrafted Furniture

"They're beautiful—just outstanding."

That's how Faye Harper, who helps operate the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Asheville, describes the Center's

latest exhibit—a collection of traditionally handcrafted furniture produced by the students of Berea College in Kentucky.



"Cherry and walnut are the woods most often used," she explained. "They are in an area where people can walk among them and get a good look at them. As the weather gets

warmer and people begin to travel more, we're expecting crowds."

The exhibit includes a spool bed, night table, chest and mirror set plus a day bed, corset-back chair, rope leg dining table, a large blanket chest, a buffet, a goose neck rocker, a slipper rocker, and a collection of tables and chairs and other pieces. They were made by students who chose the school's Woodcrafting Department to fulfill an obligation

to spend at least a few hours a week working. The requirement is part of the college's operating procedure.

"It's labor in learning," explained Jerry Trusty, office supervisor in the college's marketing department. "Every student works at least 10 hours a week."

The students get paid for their labor and the school gets the profits on the sale of the merchandise.

The furniture at the exhibit is for sale, but all pieces must remain at the Center's gallery until the exhibit closes April 30. The gallery is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Home Gardening Show Returns To Public TV

The N.C. Agricultural Extension Service's home gardening program will return to public television in March under the title *Almanac Gardener*.

It will take the place of the regular *Almanac* program this spring, but *Almanac* will return next fall.

Producer Mike Gray said *Almanac Gardener* will premiere on Tuesday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. and will be re-run the following Saturday at 4:30 p.m.

The panel format used on extension's *Backyard Gardener* program a few years ago will be followed, with extension specialists and agents answering viewer questions. However, there will be more emphasis on field and studio demonstrations.

## Warning Issued On Smoke Alarms, Gates

The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued warnings regarding a smoke alarm and accordion-style baby gates.

The smoke alarms in question, products of Electro Signal Lab., Inc. (ESL) of Rockland, Mass., may not sound or fail to sound loudly when smoke is present.

## Home Folks

**Melvin Torrence** of Mineral Springs is one of 15 people from across the country who have been named to receive the Carnegie Medal for heroism. The \$2,500 award recognizes Torrence for rescuing a baby from a burning house in March, 1982 . . . . . **Dr. Donald L. Stormer**, assistant director of the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service and State 4-H Leader, has been presented with Sertoma International's Service to Mankind Award. The Tar Heel and Carolina Clubs in Chapel Hill presented the award, the highest given by the organization. It cited Stormer for his work in developing the Sertoma 4-H Camp near Winston-Salem . . . . . **Luther N. Packer**, construction administrator for the N.C. Army National Guard, has received the Distinguished Service Award of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. It cited him for outstanding service in management of the Facilities Maintenance Program of the National Guard. . . . . **Harry E. Stewart** of Raleigh has been inducted into the U.S. Jaycees Hall of Leadership. He was president of the N.C. Jaycees in 1951 and served as vice president and treasurer of the U.S. Jaycees. The Hall of Leadership recognizes former members who exhibited leadership qualities and who have continued the Jaycee traditions of leadership and service . . . . . **Dr. T. Everett Nichols Jr.** has been named the 1983 Man of the Year by *Progressive Farmer* magazine. An extension grain marketing specialist at N.C. State University, he was cited for advising farmers last year on the federal payment-in-kind program.



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They are made in both 12V AC and battery-powered models and may be installed in hotels, motels, apartments and homes.

The alarms are circular in shape with an off-white plastic cover and a white test button that lies flush with the cover's face. The brand name (ESL, ADT, Aritech and Edwards) and the words "Smoke Alarm" appear in raised lettering just above the half-moon-shaped grill on the face.

The products were made between July, 1981 and February, 1983.

The baby gates present an entrapment and strangulation hazard, according to officials of the federal agency.

The gates have V-shaped openings along the top edge and diamond-shaped openings in the sides.

The hazard is not present with mesh screen style gates.

For more information about either of these warnings, call the CPSC toll-free at 800-638-CPSC.

## Craft Shows Set for April Weekends

Cedar Creek Pottery and Gallery near Creedmoor has scheduled its annual spring kiln opening for the

## Cover Shot By Ashe County Photographer

Barbara Neaves Farmer of Rt. 2, Lansing, captured the colors of this inset in this photo made in the North Carolina mountains.

Mrs. Farmer, who occasionally teaches photography courses, is a consumer-member of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir.

weekends of April 7-8 and April 14-15. In addition to pottery and other crafts by more than 130 artists, the gallery will feature live music and pottery-making demonstrations. Nearly all the pottery on display will be by Tar Heel craftsmen.

The gallery will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the opening. It's located between Durham and Creedmoor off U.S. 15.

## Home and Garden Tour Slated In Charlotte

"Cherry Blossoms" is the theme for the 1984 Charlotte Home and Garden Tour April 12-15 which this year features six homes and four gardens.

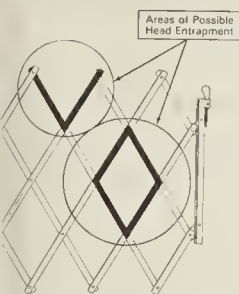
In addition to the regular tours, guided tours for groups will be available at no extra charge. The

tours will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, ending at 5 p.m.

A luncheon priced at \$6.50 per person will be held each day at Myers Park Country Club, featuring informal modeling. Participants are invited to afternoon tea at the Myers Park Baptist Church Great Hall on Thursday and Friday. On Sunday, tour hours will be 2 to 6 p.m. with tea at the "White Oaks."

Advance tickets are \$6 for the first three days and \$3 for Sunday and can be obtained by sending a check made out to the Home and Garden Tour to Mrs. Ralph Peters, 5126 Dunes Court, Charlotte, N.C. 28226. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

At the door, tickets will be \$7 for the first three days and \$4 on Sunday.

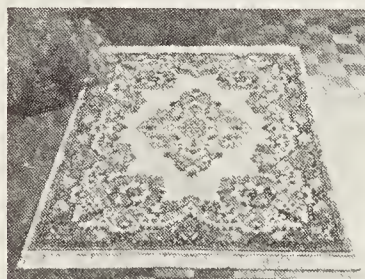


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## FCX Marks 50 Years Of Self-Help Success

First it was Burlington. Then in rapid order came Charlotte, Greensboro, Salisbury, Greenville (N.C.), Newton, Lumberton and Kinston.

The year was 1934, and the newly-organized Farmers Cooperative Exchange was opening its doors to the farmers of North Carolina.

From these eight local outlets, the number has swelled to 95 as the cooperative—now known as FCX, Inc.—celebrates its 50th birthday this month.

In that half-century span, the FCX service centers have spread all across the face of North Carolina and through much of South Carolina.

From an unknown entity in its earliest days, FCX has now become a household word among farmers and even among great numbers of the general public who have found the cooperative a good and reliable place to purchase their lawn and garden supplies.

What the public does not know is the tremendous effort and planning which finally give life to a dream held by a handful of dedicated or highly interested farm and educational leaders.

It is not easy even in these more prosperous times to start a business, but the thought of starting one in the depths of the great economic depression of the 1930s almost defies the imagination.

Those who lived through this period remember the hardships, especially on the farm. Thousands were driven from the land in mortgage foreclosures. Crop prices sank to rock bottom levels. There was little or no cash money even for daily necessities. Not since the end of the Civil War had there been more deprivation and suffering.

This is the situation which existed when many of the agricultural leaders of the state began to see some measure of hope through the organization of a statewide purchasing and marketing cooperative. It was, in essence, to be a self-help program that would band farmers together for their common good.

Though the idea burned brightly in many minds, it was not until July, 1933, that concerted action began to take shape.

The American Institute of Cooperation met on the campus of N.C. State University that month. Leaders from many of the nation's largest coopera-

tives then in existence were in attendance. Their talk about the accomplishments of these organizations in helping to solve farmers' problems fired the imagination of local leaders and spurred them on to renewed efforts to establish a statewide cooperative.

Action began quickly. A formal meeting of some of the state's most prominent farm and education leaders took place in the office of Dr. I. O. Schaub, agriculture dean at NCSU, on August 28, 1933.

From this assemblage, a working committee was appointed, and this smaller group met weekly for many months to work out details, such as by-laws, capital sources, personnel, and the like.

Strong support at this time came from the N.C. Cotton Growers Cooperative Association, a marketing organization with headquarters in Raleigh. The association already operated its own supply company for its members' production needs, and it offered to turn over this unit wholly to the new statewide cooperative.

In retrospect, many said if the Cotton Association had not backed the concept with such vigor, FCX might never have seen the light of day.

The association also furnished general manager for the new co-op M. G. Mann, a former Tarboro banker and then assistant general manager of the association, was tremendously

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This review of FCX's growth over the past half-century was written by Eugene S. Knight, who has been with the cooperative since 1950. During most of his tenure there he served as director of public relations and advertising. He is now director of public relations and corporate secretary.

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enthusiastic. He saw a statewide cooperative as the salvation for farmers in their downtrodden condition.

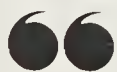
He worked ceaselessly with the committee, offering advice and help. He traveled widely and talked with many influential people to keep the concept alive.

While there were many prominent heads and hands involved, Mann is generally credited as being the "father of FCX."

When the organization board, composed of representatives from the major farm organizations of the state, met in December, 1933, a top item on the agenda was a request that M.G. Mann be allowed to split his time between the Cotton Association and the new co-op. The request was granted.



**The year was 1934 and the newly-organized Farmers Cooperative Exchange was opening its doors to the farmers of North Carolina. From the first eight local outlets, the number has swelled to 95 as the cooperative celebrates its 50th birthday this month**



However, Mann said he could not accept the responsibility unless he had tangible evidence that farm leaders of the state were willing to give solid backing to the organization.

This led to a document, known as the covenant," which clearly stated the commitment of these leaders. Mann asked all present at a luncheon meeting on February 6, 1934, to discuss and then sign the document. Each did.

The following affixed their signatures: Dr. Frank P. Graham, president of the Greater University of North Carolina; Dr. I. O. Schaub, dean of agriculture at NCSU and director of the extension service; T. E. Browne, state director of vocational education;

U. Benton Blalock, general manager of the N.C. Cotton Growers Cooperative Association; R. B. Etheridge, chief of Division of Markets, N.C. Department of Agriculture; E. S. Vanatta, master of the State Grange.

With this document in hand, Mann was able to open many doors and get the cooperation he needed to launch the new co-op.

Mann and the co-op's employees had to fight for every inch of progress in those early years.

From eight local service centers in 1934, the number jumped to 20 by 1939, then to 34 by 1944, to 54 by 1949, to 59 by 1954 and to 67 by 1959, FCX's 25th year.

Manufacturing and processing facilities were building and growing at the same rapid pace. Originally depending on others for production supplies such as feed and fertilizer, FCX established its own plants and mills to furnish these needs. At the same time, it also joined with other regional cooperatives for mass purchasing, manufacturing, and processing to further reduce costs.

In these 25 years, FCX saw many changes, without doubt some of the greatest in its existence.

M. G. Mann skillfully guided the organization through the first 24 years until his tragic death in 1958.

The Board of Directors selected G. Dewey Arndt, then assistant general manager, to carry on in the top spot. This began the modern era of FCX.

Arndt continued the progressive program Mann had developed and added other facilities and services. A new modern feed mill was added at Farmville in 1962 to serve the growing needs of eastern Carolina poultry and livestock producers. To expand services to the important grain-producing area in lower southeastern North Carolina counties and upper northeastern South Carolina counties, the co-op bought a sizeable grain elevator at Lumberton to add to the smaller marketing facilities already there.

Arndt also saw several service centers added and improvements made to existing facilities.

At his retirement from FCX in 1967, he was succeeded by A. J. Haynes, a long-time employee who had held increasingly responsible positions in the organization. A former teacher of vocational agriculture, Haynes came to FCX in 1934, the

*Continued on page 12*



**Two FCX workers stack feed at the Rockingham outlet in May, 1951.**



## FCX Marks 50 Years Of Self-Help Success

*Continued from page 11*

year of its founding, to develop a quality seed program.

FCX continued to grow and make substantial progress under his leadership. At the end of his first year as manager, gross volume, including intra-company sales, was \$91 million. When he retired six years later, volume had climbed to \$161 million.

Upon Haynes' retirement, the cooperative again promoted the assistant general manager, placing Marvin McClam, also a former agriculture teacher, in the top executive position. A native of Lake City, S.C., McClam had begun work with FCX in 1948 as a manager trainee at Bishopville.

He moved up the corporate ladder

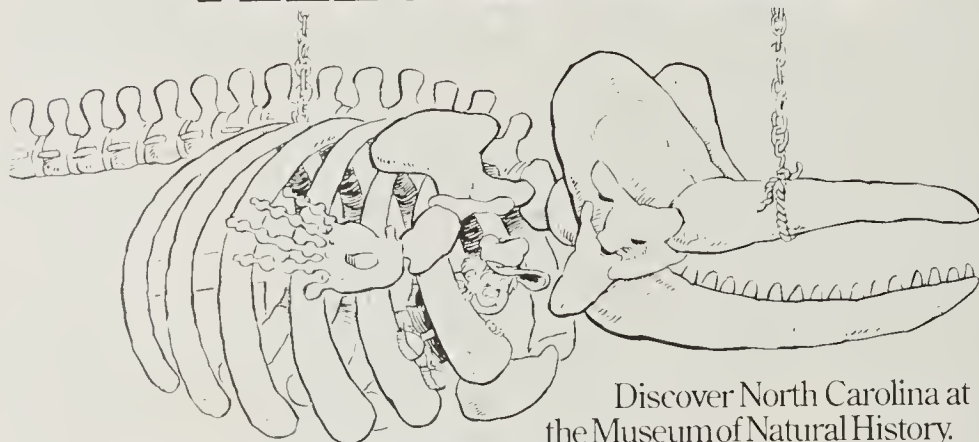
rapidly in the ensuing years and had gained all-around experience in management when he was tapped for the No. 1 position in 1973.

In his first year as manager, FCX reached a gross volume of \$229 million, including intra-company sales. Ten years later the figure had reached \$503 million.

On July 1, 1980, FCX merged with Central Carolina Farmers Exchange (CCF), a five-county purchasing and marketing cooperative with headquarters in Durham. Twelve years earlier, it had merged with the Farmers Cooperative Exchange of Columbia, S.C., a local cooperative which also served as an FCX dealer agent.

As FCX observes its 50th birthday on March 12, it owes its successes to many individuals—successes which have transformed a small self-help organization of farmers into the No. 1 farm supplier in the two Carolinas.

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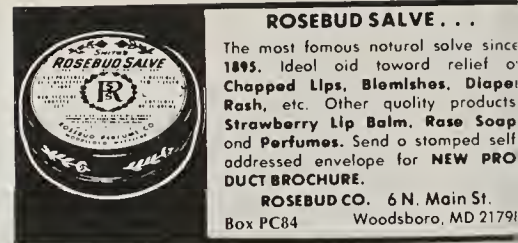
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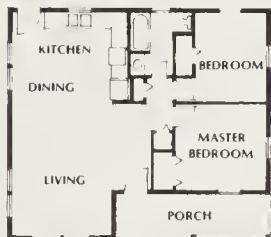


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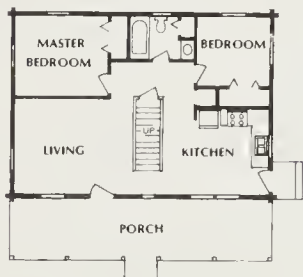
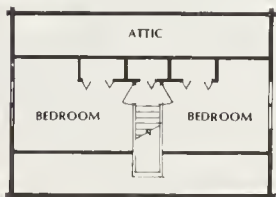
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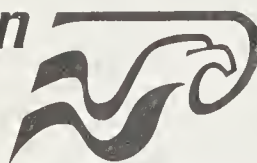


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# Can Bluebirds Count?

*This story was written by Heyward H. McKinney of Wadesboro, who retired in 1981 as manager of Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation, Wadesboro, after a 40-year career in the North Carolina rural electric program. He now serves as chairman of the board of the N.C. Rural Electrification Authority.*

I was working in the garden that morning, and had a feeling of unease when the bluebirds didn't offer their usual token protest to my presence. You see, my bird box was mounted on one of the posts supporting the grapevine, and the grapevine was adjacent to the garden.

It had been such a delight watching the bluebirds as they considered the location, the size of the house, the available food supply, and whatever else bluebirds consider when selecting a nesting place.

Anyway, everything must have passed inspection, for pretty soon the nest was built and four eggs laid. Eventually there were four of the scrawniest, ugliest little creatures you've ever seen.

I kept up with what was going on by occasionally peeping inside the bird box.

They were excellent parents, as I'm sure all bluebirds are. They brought food, drove off English

sparrows, became quite concerned when a cat was around—all the while making only token protests when I came to work in the garden. Their protests lasted only a few minutes as they seemed to understand that I did not represent a threat to them or their family of little ones. Pretty soon, they would go back to the task of providing food for the babies and leave me to my chore of hoeing out the garden.

But on that particular morning, I had not seen either of the parents. They were not mildly scolding me as usual, nor were they feeding the babies. Previously they were never more than a few minutes apart bringing insects for the brood and yet I had been in the garden for over an hour and hadn't seen them even once. That's when I began having this uneasy feeling that something was wrong. Bad wrong.

Finally, I decided I had better

look in on the baby birds to see if they were still there.

When I opened the door and peeped in, I've never seen such long necks, such gaping mouths, or heard such pitiful little "cheeps." It was quite obvious that the little things were literally starving. I closed the door and began to wonder what to do if the parent birds didn't show up soon.

Well they didn't and, after several hours, I could tell that the "cheeps" were getting weaker and they didn't seem to have as much strength when they stretched their little necks begging for food.

I knew something had to be done—and soon.

I started trying to catch grasshoppers. What a job that was. I couldn't see the little buggers in the grass until they flew. When they lit, again I couldn't see them until they flew again. I chased grasshoppers all over the yard.



Neighbors drove by and stared like they thought I was nuts! I guess they had reason, seeing an old codger crawling around the yard slapping at the ground. It took forty-five minutes to catch one grasshopper.

It was gulped down so quickly, I doubt the little bluebird even knew it had had anything to eat.

Well, I went back to trying to catch another grasshopper, but it didn't take a genius to figure out that those bluebirds were doomed to starvation if they were to rely on me supplying them with grasshoppers. I figured that out myself.

Then, came one of those rare flashes of brilliance. Why not buy crickets, the kind used for fish bait? And so I did.

For the next few hours, I stuffed those little bluebirds with crickets. They ate up a dollar's worth, and for a while they seemed satisfied. They didn't stretch their little necks and open their mouths so wide. When they were full, they just nestled down in the nest and seemed quite content.

The next day, I got more crickets and things were rocking along pretty well.

I got so I could tell which one was hungriest—the mouth of one would open just a little wider than the others.

A friend advised that I could feed them a soupy solution of dry cereal and milk with a medicine dropper. When one was hungry, it would try to swallow the whole medicine dropper. This helped out the grocery bill. The cereal was much cheaper.

I still gave them crickets, but I would try to fill them up on cereal first. A good balanced diet, you see.

By this time, I felt that the crisis was over and that I could possibly keep the little fellas from starving to death. But now there were other disturbing thoughts. How could I teach

them to fly? Jump off the house and flail my arms like a windmill and say, "Now, you try it?" How could I tell them to watch out for cats, that "they will eat you up?"

Where would they get the money to buy crickets? Or how could I teach them how to catch grasshoppers and other insects? Oh, sure I know that instinct would help to a great degree, but I had doubts about my ability to return them to nature as adult bluebirds totally capable of fending for themselves.

Then came another flash of brilliance. Didn't we have quite a number of bluebird boxes out at the golf course? And didn't the one near No. 2 green and the one near No. 4 tee have little bluebirds very nearly the same size as my adopted brood? Now the crucial question: could bluebirds count?

Well, I took one of my ugly, little featherless friends out to the golf course and, while the parents were away, I slipped it in the bird box near No. 2 green. Then I backed off aways to see what would happen.

”

**I could tell that the "cheeps" were getting weaker and they didn't seem to have as much strength when they stretched their little necks begging for food. I knew something had to be done—and soon**

“

The parents went right on feeding the flock as if nothing had happened and I decided that, sure enough, bluebirds couldn't count. And they would feed whatever number of hungry mouths they found in their bird house.

I went back home and got the other three. I put two in each of the new homes. Before the males had just sort of sat around as lord protectors of their domains and let the females do most of the work of feeding the little ones. With the two extra mouths to feed, I'm telling you, those male birds had to stop being lord protectors and start hustling their little tails off helping to feed their families.

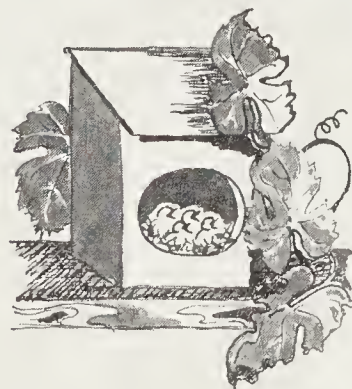
After that, everything went along just fine. When playing golf, I would check on my "children" and I'm proud to report that I watched them grow from skinny little things with their eyes closed to bright-eyed, fully-feathered young birds ready to leave the nest.

After they were gone, I often saw bluebird families of two adults and six young ones still together, and I knew the new parents were still providing the guidance and training necessary for survival.

We have lots of bluebirds out at the golf course. Quite often, while playing golf, I hear the soft, plaintive notes of a bluebird and, if I interpret bird language correctly, it seems to say, "Thanks, old fella, for helping make it possible for me to be around."

And I think how thankful I am that bluebirds can't count. But maybe bluebirds can count. Maybe they just care enough to take care of their own kind. Maybe mankind can take a lesson from them—and someday put it fully into practice.

—Heyward H. McKinney





# "Magic" Indian Oil CATCHES FISH LIKE CRAZY!

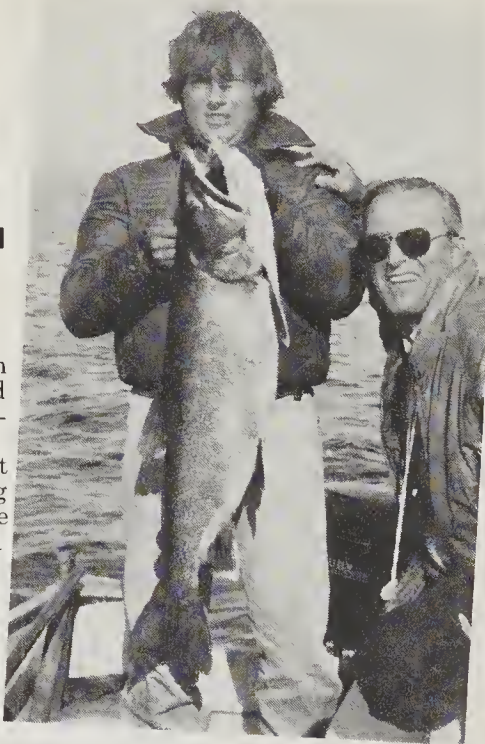
I made this remarkable discovery when my son went on his first fishing trip with me. We hired this old Indian guide in a small town in Wisconsin.

When our guide showed Mark how to bait his hook, I noticed that he rubbed something on the bait just before Mark put the line in the lake. Within minutes Mark had himself a beautiful bass. You can imagine how pleased I was and Mark, of course, wanted more.

So the whole thing was repeated—the guide put on the bait, rubbed it again, and up popped another beauty. Meanwhile, I sat there patiently waiting for my first fish.

This went on all morning. Mark caught 30 bass and I got eight.

When I pulled the boat in at noon and paid off our Indian guide, I noticed that a small, unusual seed had apparently fallen from the guide's pocket into the bottom of our boat. The odor from the seed was quite strong and certainly different from anything I had ever smelled before. This was what he had rubbed on Mark's bait!



*It works for me—  
wouldn't be without it.*  
D. Hulbutt, Duluth

When we returned home the next day, I gave the seed to a chemist friend of mine. He analyzed it and duplicated it into a spray for me.

I could hardly wait for my next fishing trip. What I discovered on that trip was absolutely unbelievable. I have never before caught fish like that. Every time I baited my hook. I sprayed it and up popped another fish.

I tested some more. I put spray on one bait and nothing on another. The sprayed bait got the fish almost immediately. The unsprayed bait got some nibbles, but nothing more.

I gave some of my friends samples of the spray to try and the results were the same—they caught fish like never before.

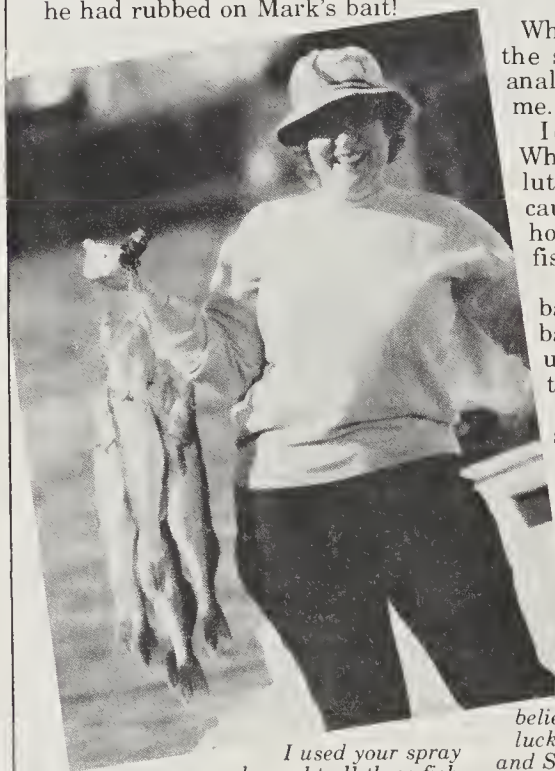
I named my spray "CATCH FISH LIKE CRAZY" cause that's just what it does and it works with all kinds of fresh or salt water fish. It works equally well on artificial or live bait.

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*I used your spray  
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J. Hannon, Chicago

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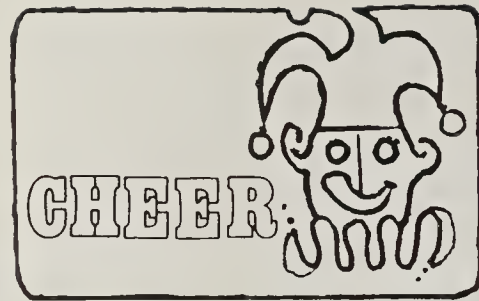
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The police sergeant asked one of his officers, "Did you give the prisoner the third degree?"

The officer replied, "Yes, we brow beat him, badgered him and asked him every question we could think of."

"So, What happened?" the sergeant asked eagerly.

"He dozed off," the officer replied, "and merely said, 'Yes, dear, you're perfectly right.'"

The repair truck from the appliance company drove into the front yard. When the lady of the house answered the door, the driver said, "I understand you've got something here that doesn't work. Is that right?"

"Yes," the woman answered. "He's asleep in his hammock on the patio."

The father patted his daughter's hand fondly and said, "Tonight your young man asked for your hand in marriage, and I gave my consent."

"Oh, Daddy," she sobbed, "I do love John, but it's going to be so hard to leave Mother and go all the way to South America!"

"I understand perfectly," he beamed. "Just take her with you."

The 7-year-old was giving his little sister some advice before she started the first grade.

"Whatever you do," he said, "don't learn to spell 'cat.'" After that, the words just get harder and harder!"

Judge: "What induced you to strike your wife?"

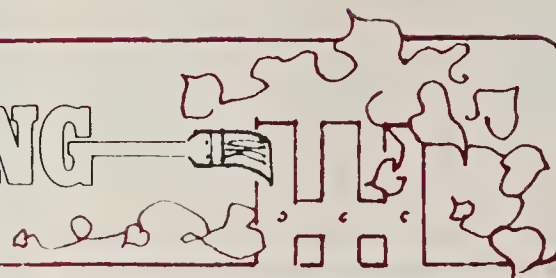
Husband: "Well, your Honor, she had her back to me, the broom was handy, and the back door was open, so I thought I'd take a chance."







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## COUNTRY KITCHEN



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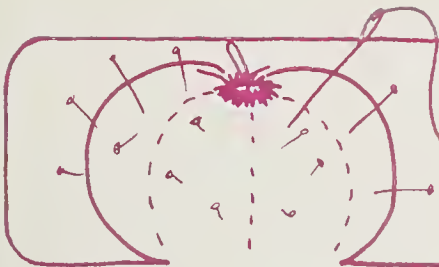
### Hearty Beef'N Cheese Crescent Pie

Submitted by Mrs. Rebecca Culler of Fayetteville

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 1/4 lbs. ground beef                      | 1/4 tsp. garlic salt                             |
| 1/3 cup chopped onion                       | 1 can (8 oz.) refrigerated crescent dinner rolls |
| 1/4 cup chopped green pepper                | 1 egg slightly beaten                            |
| 8 oz. can (1 cup) tomato sauce w/ mushrooms | 2 cups (8 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese           |
| 8 oz. can (1 cup) cut green beans (drained) | Paprika  |

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In large fry pan, brown ground beef, onions and green pepper; drain fat. Stir in tomato sauce, green beans, and garlic salt. Simmer while preparing crust. Separate crescent dough into 8 triangles. Place triangles in ungreased 9-inch pie plate; press over bottom and up sides to form crust. Combine egg and 1 cup cheese; spread over crust. Spoon hot mixture into crust. Sprinkle with remaining cheese and paprika. Bake 20-25 minutes. Cool 5 minutes before cutting into wedges. Serves five to six.





# PINS · N · NEEDLES



4578  
10½ - 26½



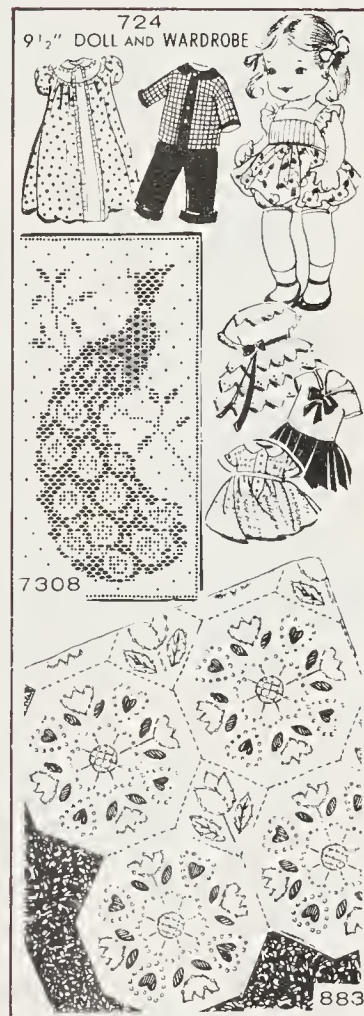
4715  
8 - 18



4530 8-20



9060  
10½ - 24½



724  
9½" DOLL AND WARDROBE

7308

883

Pattern No. 4578 is cut in Half Sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½, 24½, and 26½.

Pattern No. 4715 is cut in Misses Sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18.

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Pattern No. 724 includes transfers, patterns for doll about 9½"; wardrobe.

Pattern No. 7308 includes charts, directions for filet crochet peacock panel.

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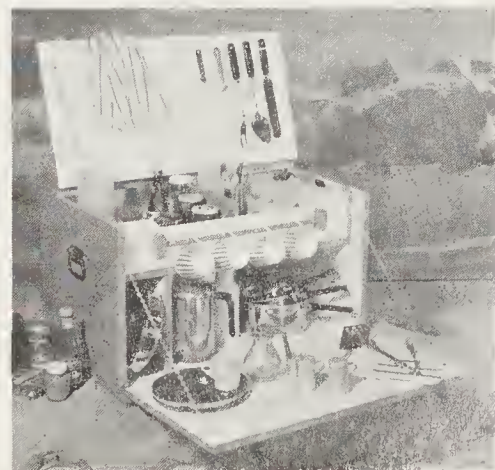
The top folds up, affording easy access to those items used most frequently. The partition which holds the cups lifts out. When the front is opened, you have lots of table-top working space. It's also easy to carry, with handles on both sides.

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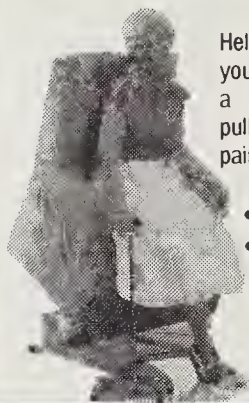
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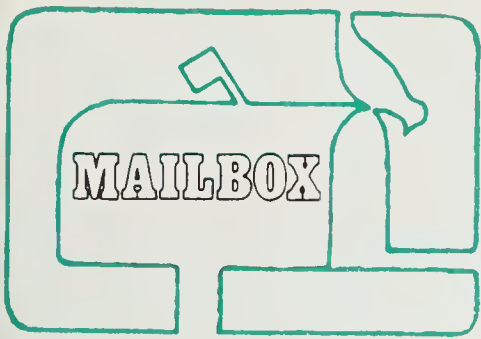
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Out of all the newspaper articles written this had the only pictures we found. We thank you for recognizing the national 4-H winners and our friend at French Broad Electric Membership Corporation for sending us a copy of *Carolina Country*.

Mrs. Wade Sexton  
Alexander

point at King David to say, "You are the man?" Let's all pray and stop fighting.

Sally Grube  
Rt. 1, Laurel Springs

**"A Really Fine Magazine"**

I am enclosing a check for two dollars. Please start my subscription to *Carolina Country*, a really fine magazine.

Agnes Peterson  
Salisbury

**Magazine: "I Enjoy It From Cover To Cover"**

I have been getting *Carolina Country* for many, many years. I live by myself and *Carolina Country* is one thing I look for each month. I really enjoy it from cover to cover. I thank you for the magazine. Hope you keep up the good work.

Mrs. Jona Sauls  
Rt. 2, Newton Grove

**"Shame On You" For Attack On TV Ministers**

To: Mr. J. Marse Grant: Sir, your attack on TV ministers is unseemly. Don't you know that all born-again ministers are doing what God has called them to do? Are we not all one family? Why attack them? You are wrong.

If you had even mentioned that some are not true ministers, you would have seemed more Christ-like. What were locals doing when our tax money goes for millions of abortions? Shame on you. Didn't the prophet



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**Rising Costs: "Hard For We Elderly On A Fixed Income"**

I have read in my *Carolina Country* magazine about light bills going up and telephone bills going up and it's going to be hard on we elderly people just living on a fixed income. And we have no one to look to but ourselves. Through God's help I hope to make it through this rough winter.

I need my phone. I am almost 74 years old and live all alone, way out in the country. I could call someone if I was sick or someone was breaking in on me.

I hope Mr. Hunt will look into it for we old people in North Carolina. People with jobs can make it. But we old people don't see no way to make it. We will need the lights and need our phones for protection in this sin-sick world we are in.

Sallie Mcleod  
Rt. 1, Marston

**"Sure Did Enjoy" Carolina Country**

I used to get *Carolina Country* for a long time. As I got older I forgot to send in my subscription and lost the address. Through a friend, thank God, I got up with the address again. So I am sending money for a year's subscription. Please hurry and let me start getting it again. I sure did enjoy that magazine.

Vivv Best Underwood  
Rt. 1, Clinton

**Thanks For "Recognizing National 4-H Winners"**

We received the January issue of *Carolina Country* from the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation in Madison County, of which we are members. In this issue were the pictures and a two-page write up of the national 4-H winners. Our laughter, Peggy Sexton, was one of those winners.



# HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

Spring arrives this month. With the re-awakening of nature, the gardener has a resurgence of energy with a renewed dedication toward upgrading his surroundings. Let's extend the spring house-cleaning chores into the yard and garden.

## Plant For Summer Color



Now's the time to spade and prepare soil for the outdoor planting of many flower seed in late March or April. For quick blooms in 40-

50 days be certain to plant white alyssum, petunia, calliopsis, marigold, pinks, larkspur, nasturtium and portulaca (moss rose). Portulaca is one of our most brilliant annual flowers. It grows four to six inches high and bears white, yellow, purple, lavender and red blooms.

## Planting

Now's the last call for planting bare-root ornamentals and fruit trees. Planted now, they will have time to make some root growth before warm weather arrives. Set new plants at the same depth they grew in the nursery row. Apply water as you fill around the roots with a good organic soil mixture. If wind is a problem, be sure to stake the plant.

## Change Hydrangea Color

In alkaline soil, flowers of bigleaf hydrangea (*H. macrophylla*) are pink. The color can be changed to blue by applying an aluminum sulfate solution five or six times during the early growing season. Make the solution by dissolving one pound of aluminum sulfate in five gallons of water. Apply about one gallon per plant at weekly intervals.

To avoid excessive runoff, poke small holes about eight inches deep and six inches apart in the soil around each plant.

If soil is very acid, flowers will be blue. You can change their color to pink by the addition of lime to the soil. At this time of year, thoroughly mix with the soil two pounds of hydrated lime per 100 square feet of surface area. Use lime with caution. Too much can result in a lack of available iron and cause mottling of the leaves.

## Lawn Care

Fertilize lawn grasses in late March or April just as new growth begins. In the absence of a soil test, use a complete fertilizer such as 10-5-5, applying about 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Remove any fallen leaves and dead grass from the lawn before fertilizing.

Before making the first mowing of the season, check the sharpness of the mower blades on your lawn mower. They should be sharp enough to make a clean cut of the tips of grass blades without bruising or crushing them. If chlorosis has been a problem, an application of either chelated iron or iron sulfate will benefit lawn grass at this time.

## Prune Ivy



Cut ivy plants back severely, whether they are clinging to a wall or used as a groundcover. Ivy will look bare at first, but soon will come out in lush green growth. Ivy likes lime; if you've not applied lime in the last two to three years, now's the time to make a light application. Be sure to get lime in the soil, not on the leaves.

## Spraying

Conclude dormant oil spraying of fruit and nut trees for insect control. Select a day that is free of wind to make the application.

## Vegetables



Sow seeds of squash, beans, okra, cucumber, corn and other warm-season vegetables after danger of frost is past. Delay setting out

tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers for at least a month.

## Get Ready—Get Set—GO

Good gardening days in the early spring sometimes are widely spaced, and it is exasperating to have to lose any of them because of unready tools. Sometime soon, when you have an hour or two, look over tools and equipment. If your trowel, shovel, spade, hoe and grass-edger are rusty shine them up by rubbing with kerosene and sand or steel wool.

Then sharpen cutting edges with a few swipes along the inside face of each with a good file. True, tools will wear out faster if this is done but you'll find you "wear better" in doing garden chores. Work is much easier with clean, sharp tools.

## Spring-Flowering Bulbs

When spring-flowering bulbs complete their flowering cycle, fertilize with a little superphosphate or bonemeal. This will ensure quality blooms next year. Remove the bulb foliage only after it dies naturally.



Pruning Roses

Proper pruning of hybrid tea roses is important since blooms are produced only on new wood. March is an ideal month for this project. If roses are pruned too early, new basal growth will be killed by a late freeze.

The first step in pruning hybrid teas is to remove weak, dead, diseased, misplaced, or broken canes (stems). In general, the longer your growing season the more severely your plants should be pruned to keep them within bounds. This varies with the preference of the individual grower, but roses usually are pruned from as low as 10 inches to as high as 24 inches.

A properly pruned rose bush will have an open center allowing light and better air circulation into the center of the bush. This will aid in disease control.

Upright-growing varieties can be encouraged to spread out by making

the pruning cut just above an outside bud. Treat cut ends of large canes with a pruning compound.

Do not prune climbing roses in the same manner as bush roses. Since climbers produce roses on previous year's growth, wait until after blooming to prune them.

Persisting Perennials



You can increase your stock of perennials by digging, dividing, and resetting the following this month or next: day-lily, chrysanthemum,

Shasta daisy, aster, coreopsis, and gaillardia.

Now's a good time to transplant perennials such as Canterbury bells, hollyhock, Oriental poppy, foxglove, columbine and English daisy.

For An Early Bird

Indoor plantings of fancy leaf caladium, tuberous begonias, gloxinias and calla lilies will produce plants in good growth. They'll be ready to set out in the garden after all danger of frost is past.

Start these in pots of rich soil placed in a sunny window or a warm room; a glassed-in porch is near-ideal.

Garbage Gardening

Kitchen garbage is a help when added to the compost pile or directly to the garden. Coffee grounds are especially good since they attract earthworms. Tea leaves and coffee grounds improve soil texture.

Crushed eggshells are an excellent plant food when added to potted plants, garden soil or mixed with compost.



To tell the truth!

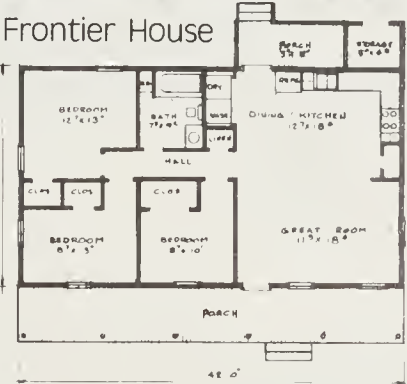
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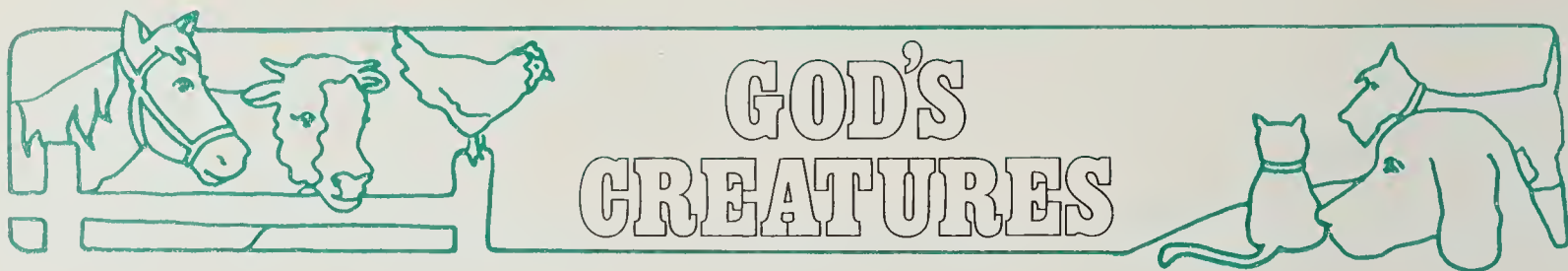
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## Vet School Boosts Economy and Quality Of Life

*This is the first in a series of columns about animal health and care, featuring interviews with faculty of the North Carolina State University School of Veterinary Medicine*

Over the past three years, North Carolina's poultry industry lost \$2.5 million to a single infectious organism.

Now, a researcher at the North Carolina State University School of Veterinary Medicine is working to develop an easy, on-farm test which will help poultry farmers spot the disease early and prevent its spread throughout a flock.

Dr. Ashley A. Ansari's work on the test illustrates the multi-faceted role of the newest of the nation's 26 veterinary schools. Though less than three years old, the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) has emerged as an in-state teaching institution that also reaches out to North Carolina's livestock producers, veterinarians and animal owners with research, information, expert advice and the services of a teaching hospital.

After almost a decade of debate and planning, SVM's physical structure began in 1979 to rise in the middle of 182 acres of rolling hillside adjoining the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh—a farmlike setting that has become home to grazing livestock herds providing students hands-on experience in animal husbandry.

The SVM accepted its pioneer class of 40 students in 1981. Two subsequent classes have swelled enrollment to 152 today. With a present faculty of 74, the school offers a four-year curriculum leading to a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree and graduate studies in four concentrations.

At the heart of the spacious, red brick SVM complex is the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital. It offers basic veterinary care as a means of training students and serves as a referral center for practicing veterinarians in the state and region for unusual and difficult cases.

Fourth-year veterinary students will begin training in the hospital this June, says School Dean Terrence M. Curtin. Under faculty supervision, students will have the

opportunity to diagnose problems and administer routine care.

Work in the hospital, laboratories, operating and examining rooms, classrooms and on the teaching farm prepares students for careers that today span a wide range from private practice to public health and corporate research.

The school also is very much a part of the land grant university, Curtin says. Extension services provide educational information on disease treatment and prevention to livestock farmers, veterinarians and animal owners. There are additional plans for life-long educational programs for practicing veterinarians.

Curtin thinks the research support provided by the school to the \$1.4-billion livestock and animal-related industries in North Carolina can be an important factor in attracting new industries. The school, he believes, can help these industries boost production and economic returns by 15 to 40 percent in the next few years.

Research such as Ansari's, which may prevent millions of turkeys and chickens from becoming unmarketable, is one example. Other researchers are studying diseases

and parasites in swine and beef cattle.

Dr. Don Howard, associate dean of the school, said the SVM is already becoming a major positive force for improving North Carolina's economy and quality of life.

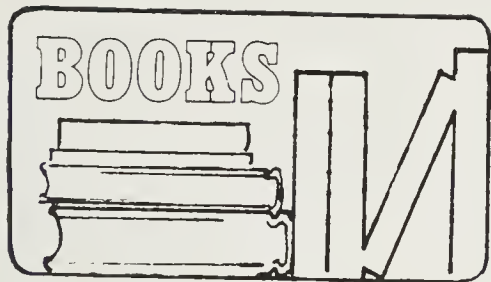
For example, he said, the school is involved in various research projects that are expected to have near-future payoffs—and some will have long-term impact—for humans as well as animals.

"Similarities of disease processes and parallel physical characteristics often make the study of animal diseases applicable to human concerns."



NCSU's School Of Veterinary Medicine





*Oral History: A Novel*, By Lee Smith, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 286 pages, \$14.95.

Lee Smith's major problem—if you want to call it that—is one many young American writers would welcome. For this and her five previous books, critics across the land have fallen all over each other in comparing Ms. Smith variously with the likes of William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Flannery O'Connor, Carson McCullers, even Marcel Proust and Charles Dickens.

That's heady stuff, but it's also a mixed blessing. The comparisons in this case are accurate, but unnecessary. *Oral History* makes it plain that Lee Smith is in a class by herself, without any need for comparison to set the context. Lee Smith can set her

own context.

Because it is built upon myth and memory recounted by and about members of a single Virginia mountain family, the book is difficult to outline in terms of plot. But that structural complexity is what makes the novel as rich and rewarding as it is for the reader.

Ms. Smith, who teaches at N.C. State University, begins her story with one of the truly hilarious opening sequences in contemporary American fiction.

Young Jennifer, a college student, returns for a visit with her late mother's family in tiny Hoot Owl Holler. But this will be a working visit for the earnest and relatively guileless Jennifer: She is enrolled in a college "oral history" course and has brought her tape recorder along to capture forever the sage of what she has learned from her stepmother and father to regard as a hopelessly backward collection of relatives.

But as Jennifer (and we readers) listen to this oral history unfold, we see that Ms. Smith is up to much more in this novel than offering a new style chronicle of "The Beverly Hillbillies."

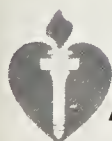
No indeed. This is a tale of sorcery and bloodshed, of fate and night winds weaving through lonely mountain hollers. Ultimately, it is the story of a curse on this strange and surprising family that leads us inevitably to the novel's fanciful, but entirely appropriate, retelling of the old heritagemess of pottage exchange.

While no one can fault Ms. Smith's authorial eye—the novel is chock full of startling and enduring visual images—it is in her capacity for perfect pitch in setting down mountain speech, including even inflection and nuance, that her true virtuosity emerges. Toward the middle of the book, one of the characters notices that "the pearly-white sky set to changing before my eyes, glowing pink like it had a light behind it."

In every sense, then *Oral History* is a singular achievement in storytelling. One can only hope that its success will put to rest all the pointless comparisons with other equally fine writers. Or if that's too much to ask, let's start running the comparisons the other way: It's past time we started praising new authors by putting them in a class with the likes of Lee Smith.

—Rod Cockshutt

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# Pesticide Applicators Need To Show License

Ask to see their license.  
This is the advice that John H. Wilson Jr. has for North Carolinians who are considering hiring someone to apply pesticides.

Commercial pesticide applicators must be certified and licensed in North Carolina, or they must work under the direct supervision of a certified applicator.

"Certification and licensing do not guarantee that an applicator is perfect anymore than a drivers license guarantees a perfect driver," said Wilson, pesticide education specialist for the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service.

"But certification and licensing do help reduce pesticide misuse and accidents, just as driver training and tests help make safer drivers," he added.

Wilson had these additional suggestions for people who might need the services of a pesticide applicator:

"Ask yourself, does this applicator act like a professional? If you have doubts, ask to see the label of the pesticide they plan to use.

"Also, don't hesitate to ask for a second opinion or to express your concern about pesticides and their proper use."

Wilson said pesticide use in North Carolina will be on a seasonal upswing once warm weather arrives. Summer-time usually means pest time, especially midsummer when plant diseases, weeds and insects may need to be controlled by pesticides.

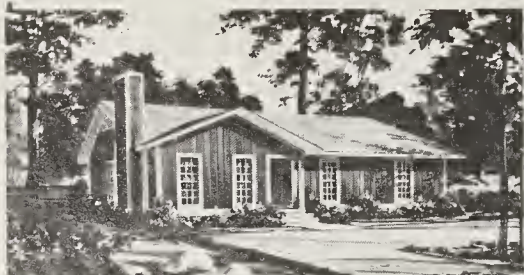
Like drugs and medicines, though, pesticides can cause problems when not used according to directions, said Wilson. Just as drugs are approved for specific uses for the public by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, pesticides are strictly regulated by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"Pesticide labeling has the force of law," Wilson points out. "Persons applying for them are responsible for using these chemicals according to label precautions and directions. Violators of the label are subject to regulatory action and penalties."

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA) regulates pesticides and pesticide businesses. And, although federal regulations require certification only for use of restricted materials, in North Carolina all commercial pesticide applicators and public operators must be licensed to apply any pesticide.

Training programs for certifying pesticide applicators are carried out by North Carolina State University through the Agricultural Extension Service. Licenses are issued by the NCDA after the applicator has passed written examinations.

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# Ag Financing Issue Goes To Voters In Primary

North Carolina voters will have the chance to support growth in agriculture in this state when they go to the polls for the May 8 primary election.

In addition to the races for various elective offices, voters will decide on a constitutional amendment which would give the state the authority to sell revenue bonds to finance capital growth in agriculture.

With passing of the amendment, the North Carolina Agricultural Financing Agency would be established to work with lending institutions across the state, making loans to farmers and farmer-owned cooperatives for capital projects.

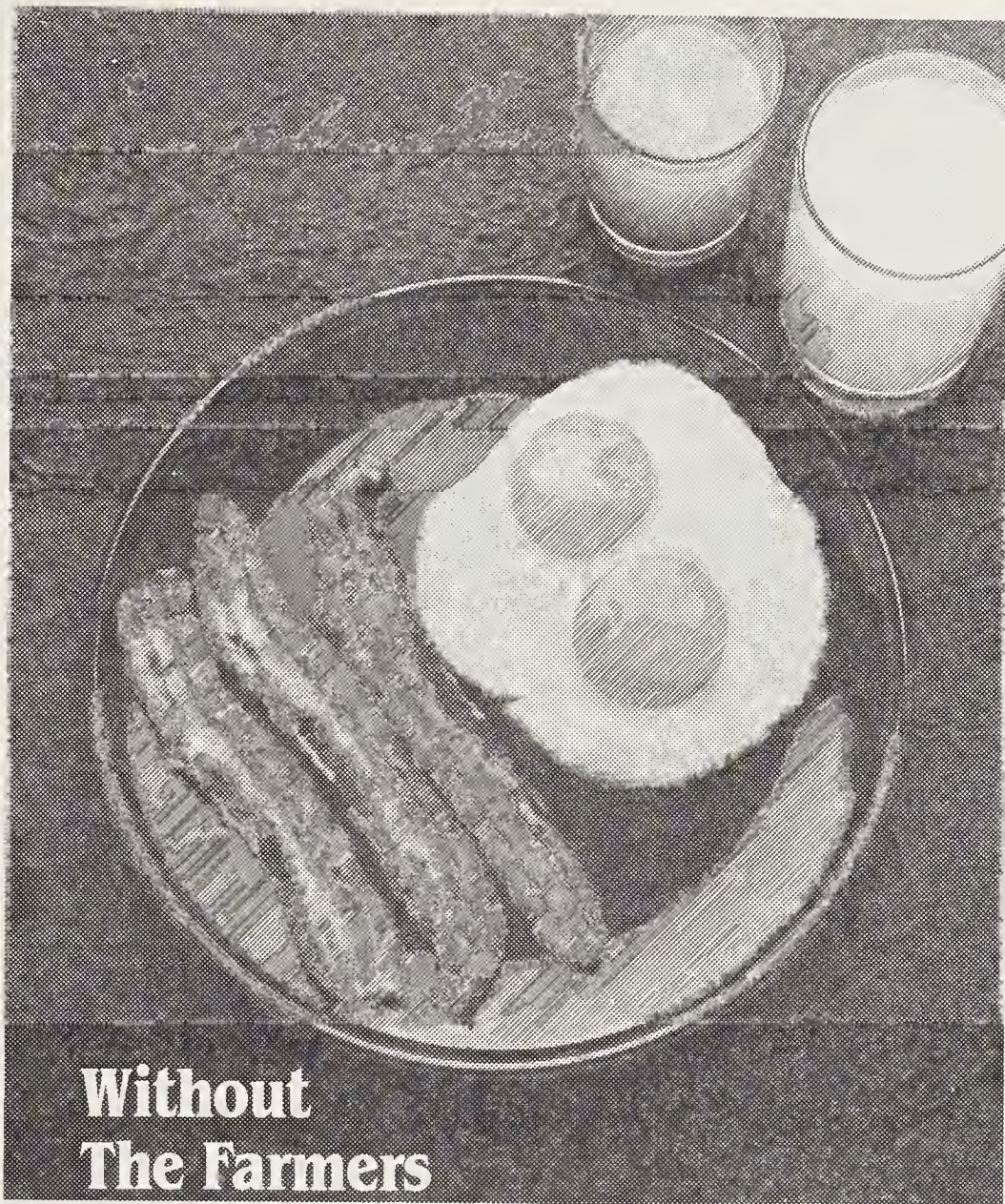
"Passage of this amendment is critical to the future of agriculture in North Carolina," said Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham. "Many lenders in North Carolina have diverted monies once designated for agriculture to other businesses and the result is farmers are having a tougher time securing long-term loans for growth or expansion of their operations."

"Passage of the amendment would make monies available to farmers who are credit-worthy and can demonstrate a need for growth."

If the measure is approved by the voters, up to \$200 million would be made available to lenders for distribution under strict guidelines established by the Ag Financing Agency.

Farmers would be eligible for loans up to \$500,000 at any one time, and farmer-owned cooperatives would be eligible for credit up to \$2 million. None of the money from these funds could be used for operating capital.

Interest received on loans to farmers would be used to pay back the bonds, and at no time would the taxpayers of the state be liable for payback of the bonds.



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# House Supports CWIP Rule Revision

The U.S. House of Representatives has voted to overturn new government regulations that allowed utilities to seek more than \$100-million in electric rate increases in the past seven months.

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*See related editorial, page 3*

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Acting on what proponents call the most important piece of consumer legislation this year, the House voted, 288-173, to reverse a decision by government regulators which had allowed investor-owned utilities to bill their wholesale customers for part of the construction-work-in-progress (CWIP) costs for power plants that are still being built.

Adopted last June by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and supported by the Reagan administration, the regulations allowed utilities to start including in their wholesale rate base half the construction costs of new power plants while they are still under construction.

The House bill would return the federal government to a decades-old regulatory system under which consumers did not have to pay any of the

cost of a new power plant until it was finished and actually generating electricity.

"The question is whether the financing of new power plants should be borne by shareholders of a utility or the consumers," said Rep. Richard Ottinger (D-NY), a sponsor of the bill. "It is the shareholders who make the profits; it is the shareholders who should bear the risks."

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## **Eight Tar Heels Vote For CWIP Legislation**

*The construction-work-in-progress legislation adopted by the U.S. House was supported by eight members of North Carolina's Congressional delegation. They were:*

*Second District Rep. I. T. (Tim) Valentine, Third District Rep. Charles Whitley, Fourth District Rep. Ike Andrews, Fifth District Rep. Stephen Neal, Sixth District Rep. Robin Britt, Seventh District Rep. Charles G. Rose III, Eighth District Rep. William G. Hefner and Eleventh District Rep. James McClure Clark.*

*First District Rep. Walter Jones did not vote because he was at home with his terminally-ill wife, who died on Feb. 13.*

---

The basic difference between the legislation and the current rule is that the bill directs FERC to review each case in detail before allowing a utility to charge customers for CWIP.

Supporters of the legislation, including more than 100 co-sponsors in the House, contend that this would protect consumers and promote sound energy investments.

Under the legislation, if a utility asks to pass on CWIP costs because of severe financial difficulty, FERC is allowed to hold a preliminary hearing and grant the utility an immediate rate increase to reflect the inclusion of CWIP.

However, at a later hearing, the utility must prove it meets requirements for CWIP inclusion or refund the rate hike to its customers.

The bill also allows CWIP for costs of installing pollution control equipment and of fuel conversion.

A similar CWIP bill is pending before a committee in the Senate. It would make it more difficult than the House-passed bill for utilities to add CWIP costs to their rate bases.

No hearings have been scheduled on the Senate bill, S. 1069.

Two members of the North Carolina delegation to the recent annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA) in San Francisco

chat with former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, who addressed a luncheon for the Tar Heel group.

Bergland is scheduled to become the chief executive officer of NRECA in March. With him are Jim Hubbard, executive vice president of the North Carolina statewide organization of electric co-ops, left, and Richard H.

Johnson of Rt. 4, Wadesboro, a director of Pee Dee EMC, Wadesboro.





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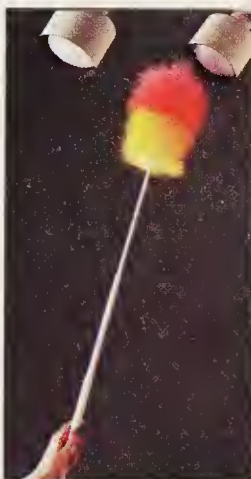


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## WASHINGTON SCENE

# Tar Heels Feeling More Optimistic, But Worry About Federal Deficits

Robin Britt, James Clarke and Tim Valentine have several things in common.

Each is a Democrat serving his first term in Congress as a member of the North Carolina delegation.

And each says that the people in his district are concerned about the United States' position in Lebanon and about the huge deficits in the federal budget. That, they say, is what they discovered during the nine-week recess that Congress took in December and most of January.

Despite these concerns, each said that he found the people in his district a bit more confident and more optimistic about their own financial situation than they were a year ago, when the worst recession since the 1930s was drawing to a close.

"I do think people feel a little better about their own economic welfare than they did a year ago," Clarke says. "They feel more secure in their jobs, and unemployment has lessened."

Britt agrees, but says that businessmen in the Greensboro area are worried about the "staggering deficits" that are being racked up in federal budgets.

Valentine says that in Eastern North Carolina people feel better "in the pocketbook" than they did a year ago, but that in some counties

in his district there have been manufacturing plants that have closed, making unemployment a real concern.

Valentine also has a fear of what the deficits are going to do to the economy of the future.



**A deficit of \$180 billion will add more than \$15 billion a year to what the government must pay just to meet the interest each year on these new obligations. The national debt now is well over a trillion dollars; the government pays over \$108 billion in debt service**



"These deficits are going to be real trouble just down the road," Valentine says. "I have been waging sort of a 'one-man war' about this during the past several months. We simply can't go on spending \$180 billion a year more than the government takes in.

"I don't think we should consider any new programs until we get this thing under some sort of control. This certainly shouldn't be a political creature, but because this is an election year, I'm afraid not much is going to be done until 1985."

The fact that these congressmen's constituents place the budget deficit high on their worry list would probably come as a surprise to many Washington political experts, who say that as long as the economy recovers the deficits won't matter much in the fall elections.

But apparently North Carolinians can figure, and a deficit of \$180 billion will add more than \$15 billion a year to what the government must pay just to meet the interest each year on these new obligations. The national debt now is well over a trillion dollars; the government pays over \$108 billion in debt service.

How can costs be cut?

"You do it," says Clarke, "just as you do when your own budget gets out of kilter. First you try to cut expenses and then you look for some way to increase your income."

All three think that military spending, which the Reagan administration seeks to increase by 13 percent to a record \$305 billion, can be cut substantially.

Britt, who is on the Armed Services committee, says a substantial cut can be made in the purchase of replacement parts by the Pentagon.

"Reports of such things as the military paying \$435 for a claw hammer and other such purchases have had an effect on the public," he said.

"The armed forces spend \$13 billion a year buying parts and the government Accounting Office thinks that \$4 billion can be saved there, alone."

Clarke says that although it calls for tough political decisions, there are a number of obsolete military bases which could be closed with no effect on national defense.

"We are also subsidizing commissaries all around the country, and I am sure some savings could be made there," the Asheville



congressman says.

Valentine also thinks savings can be made in the defense budget.

"I never have gotten used to the idea that one airplane could cost a billion dollars," he says. "Certainly there are cuts that can be made in the defense budget."

He has a problem, however, about what programs to cut or reduce.

"We have to trust someone," he said, "and here comes a four-star general saying a certain thing is needed to defend the country. It is very difficult."

Britt, with the insight that his Armed Services committee helps bring, says flatly that the military is being given more money than its people can "responsibly spend."

And Congress is sure to reduce the \$305 billion. Both Republican and Democratic leaders on Congress agree the increase proposed is too high.

The other big concern all three congressmen said they heard from constituents pertained to the middle East and the Marines in Lebanon. This is a situation so volatile that it is changing from day to day and is one over which Congress has very little control, short of cutting off funds that support our forces there. This, of course, Congress isn't going to do.

Reagan's decision to pull the 1,800 Marines from the Beirut airport and place them on ships of the fleet stationed off the Lebanese coast was hailed in Congress as a prudent step. But his decision to use naval guns and air strikes against Syrian positions caused Congressional jitters to remain.

The pullback answered the most-voiced worries that the congressmen heard in January, however. It was designed to get the Marines away from their unprotected position, where more than 250 have died since they were sent there last year as a "peace-keeping" force.

And it was the Marines specifically that the congressmen heard about back home. Perhaps the memory of the hostages in Iran four years ago prompted the concerns many expressed as people talked to

their representatives in Asheville, Greensboro and Rocky Mount.

Valentine said what he heard was "do something or get out."

The President opted for getting out, at least as far as to the ships offshore. But his orders to blast positions in the area of Lebanon that Syria occupies didn't decrease the dangers of our involvement there, those close to the situation say.

### **REA, Appalachian Agency Hit In Proposed Budget**

The 1985 budget, even though it will create the largest annual deficit in history, strikes at two institutions which have been regarded as having been extremely beneficial to North Carolina.

The budget hit hard at REA, decreasing its borrowing ability by one-half, which is in line with Budget Director David Stockman's statement that "REA should be phased out."

The Reagan administration also wants to kill, in the next fiscal year, the Appalachian Regional Commission, which Clarke says "has done many wonderful things for the mountain counties."

Both of these administration proposals will be met with sharp, stiff resistance in Congress, where REA is politically popular and where members from states where the Appalachian Commission operates will be seeking support to keep it alive.

The fact is, these programs have little to do with the size of the deficit.

The Appalachian is a small operation, compared to most government departments.

REA is operated at little cost to the federal treasury, since most of the funds it gets are in the form of loans which always get paid back with interest.

But this President, who ran for office on a platform to balance the budget during his first term and who has been making speeches for 20 years against federal deficit spending, certainly must come to grips with the problem if he is re-elected.

He has ruled out any new taxes during this session of Congress and has threatened to veto any measures that call for substantially higher levies. Also, his proposed cuts in domestic spending in this budget were milder than during the first three years of his tenure in the White House.

But next year is a different matter, and if he is re-elected, there will have to be some drastic steps taken to bring spending into line with income.

OMB Director Stockman, testifying on Capitol Hill, listed places where a second term Reagan will seek cuts.

Stockman listed farm price supports, student aid and higher education, veterans health care, Medicare and Medicaid, federal pensions and federal jobs, government procurement, and "special interest" subsidies.

The trouble with that shopping list, economists say, is there is not enough money spent in those areas, outside Medicare and Medicaid, to get decreases that would make a big dent in the deficit.

There appears no way, they say, that the budget can be brought to balance unless there are meaningful cuts in defense or higher taxes, or some of both.

The first term Reagan says those are two steps he isn't going to take in this election year.

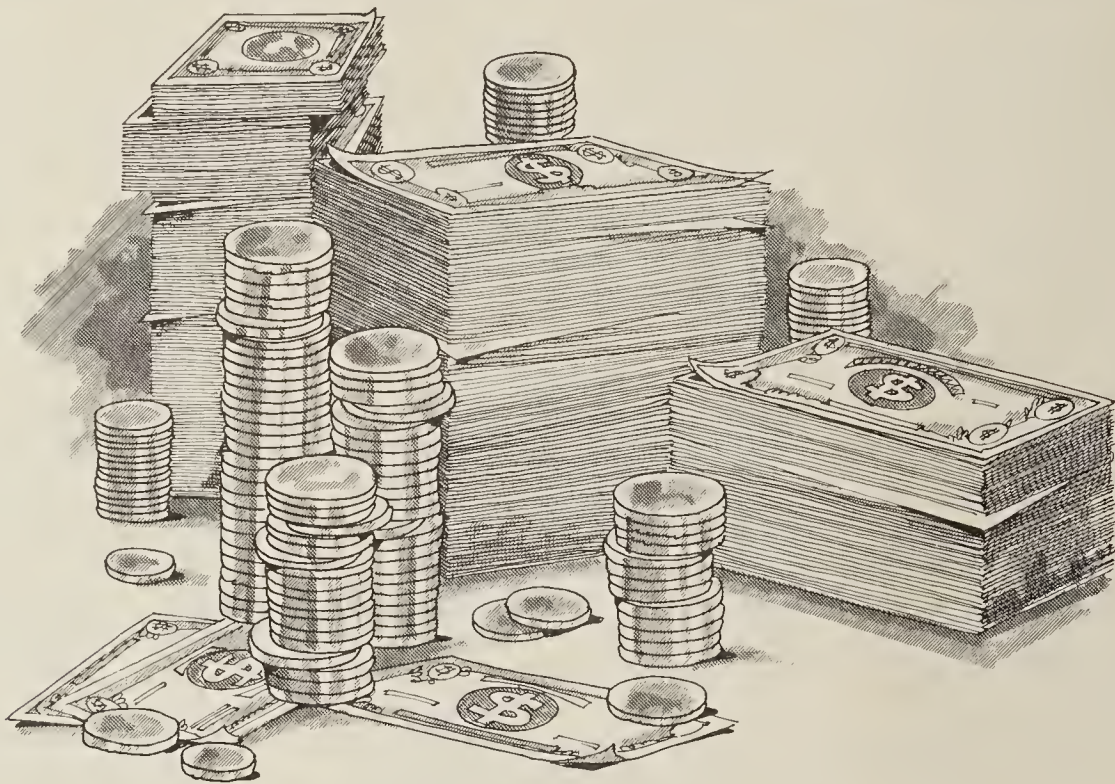
### **Sen. and Mrs. Hollings: Keeping A Sense Of Humor**

Senator Ernest (Fritz) Hollings, the South Carolinian who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, may be low in the polls but the Hollings family hasn't lost its sense of humor.

Recently on the campaign trail, the phone rang in the morning in the hotel room where he and Mrs. Hollings were still in bed. She answered, and when the caller asked to speak to the senator, she asked, in a voice loud enough to be heard at the other end, "Hey, Honey, is your name Hollings?"

There was no report as to whether the caller was still there when the Senator got to the phone.





# Revamping the Revolving Fund

**Legislation is now pending in both houses of Congress to shore up the Rural Electrification Administration's Revolving Fund, which provides loans to electric cooperatives across the country. This analysis of those bills outlines why it's needed to protect the co-ops' primary source of financing.**

*Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives in the May 8 primary election have been asked their views on the proposed changes in the Rural Electrification Administration's Revolving Fund that are outlined on these pages. Their comments will be featured in Carolina Country's special primary election issue next month.*

**A** bill that would strengthen the Rural Electrification Administration's (REA) Revolving Fund heads the legislative agenda of rural electric leaders as Congress begins its new year of work.

One version of the bill, H. R. 3050, has already passed the House Agriculture Committee on a vote of 38-1. The bill has more than 170 co-sponsors in the House and is expected to reach the House by this summer.

The senate version of the bill, S.1300, which has 40 co-sponsors, has been scheduled for committee hearings on March 20.

The bill, an amendment to the Rural Electrification Act, would allow interest rates on loans from the Rural Electric and Telephone Revolving Fund to rise as needed

so that the fund's interest income would match interest expense.

Currently, the off-budget Revolving Fund, a major source of loan funds for rural co-ops to build power lines and update power supply systems, is running dry.

Although the fund has considerable assets that include borrowers' notes and mortgages, U.S. Treasury notes and principal and interest repayments, the REA administrator also periodically borrows from the Treasury at the going current rate to raise cash to meet loan demands of rural electric and telephone systems.

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*See related editorial, page 3*

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This borrowing is necessary because, in recent years, high interest rates combined with high inflation have caused an imbalance in the fund: more money is being loaned than is being taken in from repayments.

If this trend continues, REA would have to dip into principal to make interest repayments beginning in the late 1980s to balance the fund.

The bill Congress is now considering would stop this imbalance by doing two things:



● First, interest rates would be allowed to rise moderately so loan repayments would more closely match loan funds.

● Second, the bill would permanently retain \$7.9 billion within the Revolving Fund, which, under current law, is scheduled to be transferred back to the Treasury beginning in 1993. Retaining that money in the Revolving Fund, a bookkeeping change, is proposed as a further assurance of a permanent source of loan funds for rural electric systems.

The bill calls for no new federal outlays.

A provision is also included in the bill to provide a special lower interest rate for rural electric systems suffering financial hardship as a result of such conditions as low consumer density or extensive storm damage.

To help you better understand the features of this bill, answers have been prepared to several key questions about the legislation.

**Q Will the legislation proposed to amend the Rural Electrification Act remove the requirement of rural electric systems to repay loans to the Rural Electrification Administration?**

**A** Despite public comment to the contrary, no rural electric systems would be relieved of their responsibility to repay loans, under this proposal rural electric borrowers, as they have for nearly 50 years, will continue to repay loans, continuing the best government repayment record in the history of this nation.

**Q Is the proposed legislation a "bailout" for rural electric borrowers, as the present REA administrator has said?**

**A** Absolutely not. The legislation, which the NRECA supports, is a responsible proposal which looks to the future. It would keep the Rural Electric and Telephone Revolving Fund in balance. One plank of that legislation proposes that notes amounting to \$7.9 billion due to the Treasury beginning in 1993 be converted to permanent capital and remain in the Revolving Fund. This amounts to a bookkeeping adjustment; the government would still own these assets.

Another major feature of the bill proposes a moderate rise in the interest rate on Revolving Fund loans to rural electric borrowers.

**Q How much would the interest rates go up on these loans?**

**A** The interest rate would go above the standard five percent loan rate, but just enough to keep the Revolving Fund in balance.

**Q Don't rural electric systems already receive a healthy subsidy from the federal government?**

**A** Rural electrification receives far less assistance than any other segment of the utility industry. Investor-owned systems received \$51.64 per consumer in federal subsidies in 1981. Public power systems received \$40.45 per consumer. Rural electric systems received \$8.91 per consumer.

Rural electric leaders acknowledge that all utilities require some federal assistance, and the proposed legislation seeks fairness and recognition of the difficult job rural electric systems are facing to provide reliable and affordable electric service to rural America.

**Q Can't rural electric distribution systems go to Wall Street to get needed capital?**

**A** Despite their enviable payback record, rural electrics simply cannot go to the private money markets for all of their required capital. Already, distribution systems seek about 30 percent of their loan requirements from private sources. Because of low consumer density and low revenue per mile of line, they rarely show excess income at year-end. If they do, as non-profit systems they credit that money to consumers' accounts.

**Q If this legislation is not enacted, what will happen to the Revolving Fund?**

**A** Beginning in the late 1980s, interest expense will begin to exceed interest income. At that point, the Revolving Fund will have to go into principal repayments to meet interest obligations. Eventually, this would consume the entire principal amount of the Revolving Fund.

Also, if the REA is required to begin repaying Treasury notes in 1993, the Revolving Fund will simply have to borrow more from the Treasury to meet both that obligation and future loan requirements of rural electric systems. This is why rural electrics are seeking this legislation—to avert an imbalance. They are looking ahead responsibly to the future solvency of their financing program.

**Q Who are the supporters of the legislation to ensure reliable financing for rural electric systems in the years ahead?**

**A** This list is long. In Congress, the co-sponsors' list alone includes 170 members of the House of Representatives and 40 senators. Ten members of the North Carolina congressional delegation are co-sponsors of the legislation. They are: Rep. I. T. Valentine, Rep. Walter Jones, Rep. Ike Andrews, Rep. Stephen Neal, Rep. William Hefner, Rep. Charles Rose, Rep. Charles Whitley, Rep. Robin Britt, Rep. James Broyhill and Rep. James McClure Clarke.



# EMC ANNUAL MEETINGS CALENDAR...



## Electric Membership Corporation

Date	Corporation	Time	Location
<b>Mar.</b>			
17	Edgecombe-Martin County, Tarboro	Registration: 12:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 2:00 p.m.	Edgecombe Technical College Auditorium, Tarboro
22	South River, Dunn	Registration: 6:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 8:00 p.m.	Cumberland County Memorial Auditorium, Fayetteville
23	Wake, Wake Forest	Registration: 6:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 7:15 p.m.	Wake Forest-Rolesville Senior High School Gymnasium, Wake Forest
23	Jones-Onslow, Jacksonville	Registration: 6:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Jacksonville Senior High School, Jacksonville

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# Free Air Flow Keeps Carbon Monoxide Out

Do you balk at opening a window and letting that cold air in when using a kerosene heater?

There is a very sound reason for this recommendation, says Sandra Dellinger extension housing specialist, North Carolina State University. "Improper use of these appliances can cause carbon monoxide poisoning."

If a kerosene heater is operated without a supply of fresh air, dangerous levels of carbon monoxide can build up. "Leave a window or door ajar at least an inch while the heater is burning," Mrs. Dellinger cautions.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that builds up in the red blood cells keeping them from carrying enough oxygen to the brain. Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include dizziness, drowsiness, headache, nausea and vomiting.


It may take hours or only minutes for a dangerous level to build up in the bloodstream and it can take 10 to 24 hours for the blood to rid itself of carbon monoxide.

"So even though you may not experience any of the symptoms, the accumulation of small doses of the gas over a period of weeks can be dangerous, especially to pregnant women, infants and the elderly," says the extension specialist.

Carbon monoxide can be produced from any fire if there is not enough oxygen for complete combustion, says Dick Allison, extension forestry resource specialist at NCSU. Defective furnaces and woodburning stoves can also cause problems.


"You want a free flow of air into the fire and out the chimney. Carbon monoxide may also be produced if the draft controls to an airtight wood stove are not opened enough," Allison says. Chimneys clogged with creosote or the nesting materials from birds also have a poor draft.

Extension specialists recommend a yearly check of the combustion system for furnaces along with regular checks to see that the vents and chimney are free from obstruction.



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## NCSU Design Graduates: Setting The Visual Style For National Publications

Two national publications are currently featuring the design concepts of North Carolina State University graduates.

The flashy graphics of *USA Today*, the popular national newspaper published by the Gannett chain, are put together by a stable of artists directed by Richard Curtis, a 1972 NCSU design graduate.

Curtis, who is the paper's managing editor of graphics and photography, is assisted by a 1974 NCSU graduate, John Walston.

They oversee the work of 13 full-time artists and a computer graphics system that can generate charts and graphs.

Before *USA Today* was launched in 1982, Curtis had worked for John Hardin Associates, a Greensboro ad agency; the *St. Petersburg Times*; *The Charlotte Observer*; and the *Baltimore News American*. While at the Baltimore paper, he won a J.C. Penney-University of Missouri Award for best newspaper features section.

Curtis is delighted to see *USA Today* stirring up the nation's newspaper visual styles. He said, "I can already see evidence that Dallas, Denver, Seattle, Miami and the *Boston Globe*, are all increasing their use of graphics and color both."

Meanwhile, Jay Purvis, a 1977 NCSU design graduate, joined the staff of *Gentlemen's Quarterly* last

September, after having done various special projects for the publisher's *Mademoiselle* and *Vogue* magazines.

As art director of the quarterly, he says he develops design concepts for each issue and supervises production of the visual elements.

—From profiles in North Carolina State, NCSU alumni magazine.

## "Hymnbook Flirtation"

My main joy in attending the old revival services was to sit in the back of the church with a girl and indulge in "Hymnbook Flirtation." Didja ever play this? Here's how it was done: The boy picks the name of a hymn, holding the hymnbook open and pointing it out to the girl, such as "Oh, For a Closer Walk With Thee."

Then if the girl wanted to be coy, she would turn to the song, "Some Day It Won't Be Long." Or, if she wished to encourage, she might turn to "Have Thine Own Way," and so on.

You have no idea how personal a flirtation could be carried on in this way. I have gone through an entire sermon and passed an otherwise dull evening with the good old hymnbook.

—Clyde T. Hardy in *The State* magazine

## State's Immigrants Outnumber Her Emigrants

While over 450,000 people moved from North Carolina to other states between 1975 and 1980, over 530,000 people moved in.

Of all the immigrants to the state, 52.9 percent were from other states in the South, 24.1 percent were from the Northeast, and 23 percent from the North Central and West regions. The highest number of immigrants to North Carolina came from Virginia (61,771) followed by New York (57,124), Florida (51,749) and South Carolina (41,831).

The largest single group of immigrants was composed of persons in the armed forces. About 78,000 of the 530,000 were in the military with 41,000 of those people living in military barracks. Returning natives made up almost one of four non-military immigrants. Despite Thomas Wolfe's warning about returning home, about 108,600 (23.3 percent) of the immigrants had been born in North Carolina.

More than half of North Carolina's population is considered rural, but many of the state's rural residents do not reside on farms. North Carolina ranks sixth among states in the percentage of population classified as rural; yet, it ranks 27th in the percentage of total rural population comprised of farm residents (according to the 1980 Census definition of "farm"). The state is below the national average of 9.4 percent with only 6.2 percent of rural individuals being farm residents.

North Carolina has proportionally more "working mothers" than the nation as a whole—or any other state. Nationally, 55.3 percent of civilian women aged 16 and over who have children are in the labor force, while in North Carolina the figure is 65.3 percent. This gives the state a first rank among all states in this measure. Approximately one half (49.8 percent) of American civilian women 16 years old and older were in the labor force in 1980, while for North Carolina almost 53.8 percent were in the labor force. The percentage of all civilian males 16 years old or older that were in the labor force was exactly the same as for the nation: 74.7 percent.

—From the State Office Of Budget and Management Data Center Newsletter



## Retired Congressman: "Almost Like A New Town"

When former Congressman L. H. Fountain retired from office, he and his wife returned to their hometown of Tarboro—but found it to be "almost like a new town," he says.

"I've been away so long that, while I still have a lot of personal friends, I find so many new people in my own church and in so many

other local institutions whom I didn't know," Fountain added.

"People have a tendency to think they know you so well that they think you know them when oftentimes you don't. I never forget a face, but it's awfully hard to remember names."

After 30 years in Congress, Fountain is now

taking time to rest and get his house in order—but he still stays in touch with Washington contacts in case he might want to do some consulting work.

Since retiring, he has declined to accept any invitations which require him to be in a specific place at a given time.

He's making good on a pledge he made at a Rocky

Mount breakfast meeting just before his last term expired: "Let it be understood from this point on that this is the last 7 o'clock breakfast I ever expect to attend or to speak to!"

—From a feature in the UNC Journalist, student publication of the UNC-CH School of Journalism.

## Help Sink A Ship to Improve Coastal Fishing

Would you like to improve the salt water fishing off the North Carolina coast?

You can do so by helping to sink the World War II Liberty ship—to become an artificial reef in 70-80 feet of water about 10 miles off the Carteret County coast.

A project sponsored by the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce and the N.C. Marine Education and Resources Foundation would sink the 441-foot ship at a site still to be selected.

Preparing and sinking the *Protector* as an artificial reef may cost \$80,000 to \$100,000, and contributions are being sought from salt water fishermen and businesses.

"Before the *Protector* can be sunk, she must be cleaned so there will be no pollution problems," said Jim Brown, supervisor of

the artificial reef program for the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries. "This work must be done by a commercial shipyard, and donations are needed. There are one million anglers who fish in salt water on the North Carolina coast, so if a lot of fishermen and divers contribute small amounts we'll soon have the money we need."

Coastal fishermen know that some of the best fishing is found around the wrecks of ships sunk in World War II. This artificial reef would serve the same purpose. "A whole food chain quickly builds up around a wreck," said Brown. "We've found vast schools of bait fish around artificial reefs a week after they've been sunk, and these bait fish quickly attract sport fish like sheepshead, sea bass,

sharks, amberjack, Spanish and king mackerel, and many others. Depending on the type of bottom and currents where an artificial reef is sunk, these structures can be effective for 50 to 100 years. Fishing and diving are excellent around these wrecks and artificial reefs."

For more information about the program, or to make a contribution, write to the Cape Lookout Artificial Reef Fund, P.O. Box 1758, Morehead City, N.C. 28557.

—From North Carolina Wildlife





### **Ironic Postscripts**

Here are a couple of ironic postscripts to our February issue:

- In developing some of our stories about recent changes in the telephone industry, Contributing Editor Kemp Ward needed to talk to officials of the State Utilities Commission Public Staff.

Dialing the number listed for that office in the phone book, he reached a recording that said callers should dial directory assistance to get the correct number. He did so, but the number he was given turned out to be incorrect. A second call to directory assistance provided the right number.

So, finally—four calls and two directory assistance charges after he began—Kemp was able to get his call through.

Needless to say, he had ample inspiration for questioning officials about the prospects for deteriorating phone service at higher costs.

- The item here last month about our computer problems actually didn't tell the whole story. When our final proof came in from the printer, we discovered that the piece had become so garbled with lines missing and out of sequence that it had to be redone.

Was it just our imagination that as the item was being re-set, the computer's beeps sounded strangely like a mischievous little chuckle?

### **Computer-Age "Future Shock"**

Computers have been much on my mind lately—due in part to our recent difficulties with typesetting.

Despite these problems, though, I recognize that we couldn't do very well trying to put out a publication without the little buggers, given today's advanced printing technology. The days of "hot type" from those fascinating linotype machines are long gone, never to return. And "cold type" comes from computer-based equipment.

Still, I get occasional pangs of computer-age "future shock". Friends and co-workers speak proudly of the many wonders they can perform on their home computers, while I'm at a loss to explain some of the functions on my simple hand-held calculator.

At least I have been able to master the basic operations of an automatic teller machine. That came only after I'd avoided it for years, scratching my head at the long lines in front of them even when the bank itself was open, offering the services of real live human-type people.

I managed to overcome my aversion a couple of years ago after a weekend emergency sent me to the neighborhood grocery with a please-cash-my-check plea the manager kindly accommodated.

That wouldn't happen again, I vowed. I'd learn to use those machines—just so I could get cash as needed after banking hours.

Now, I routinely join the lines waiting for my regular automatic teller "fix"—happily ignoring those human-type people who could help me if I'd just walk inside the bank.

I'm hooked, too. But I was still unprepared for the electronic thermometer the doctor stuck in my mouth recently while trying to stop a nosebleed. It offered quite a contrast to the hand-made trick he'd devised to shut off the flow of blood: two tongue-depressors held together by a rubber band, clothes-pin fashion.

I also had my doubts about those high-tech cash registers as I stood in line at the after-Christmas sale while they whirled and buzzed upon reading each UPC symbol, searching memory for sale prices that the clerk knew instantly.

Then I saw a newspaper item about an incident at a Raleigh fast-food restaurant. An electrical storm knocked the power off for a matter of minutes, but the electronic registers didn't re-start when the power flow returned.

The youthful clerks, accustomed to punching buttons according to menu selections and reading off the total price of an order, were thrown into a tizzy. They couldn't handle the simple arithmetic required for adding up a bill—except with laborious figuring on scratch paper, often with the customers' help.

All this has made me wonder if we haven't gone too far in rallying around the floppy disc flag. These devices deserve a salute for they allow us to do many jobs more quickly, more conveniently and more efficiently. But some jobs don't need that kind of electronic streamlining and we might be better off doing without it for others.

Maybe we shouldn't be faulted too much for erring to excess, though, because no one really prepared us for any of this.

Even George Orwell's novel 1984 led us astray, depicting as it did the tyranny of government control epitomized by "Big Brother."

He didn't foresee that we'd come to be a society dominated by a "Mother Microchip" of our own making.

—Owen Bishop







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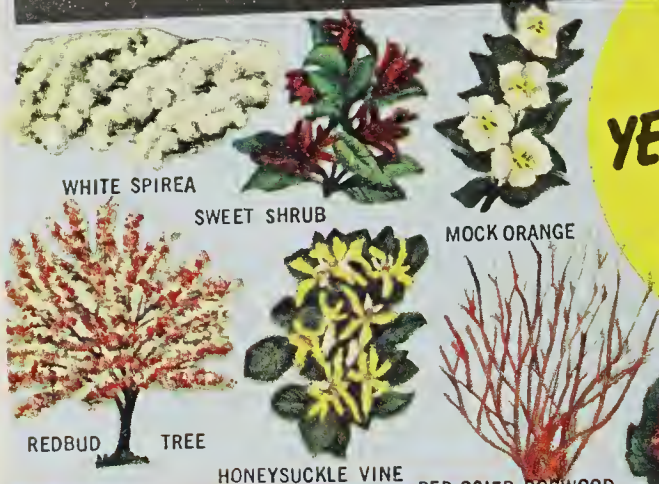


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